



City of New Bedford
Scott W. Lang, Mayor

City of New Bedford
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

'Tis the Season... New Bedford Celebrates the Holidays in Grand Style with a Host of Festive Events

New Bedford, Massachusetts-Downtown New Bedford will be bustling with holiday spirit, shoppers, families and festive activities during the first weekend in December. On Saturday, December 1st and Sunday, December 2nd from 11AM to 4PM, **Holiday Shops 2007** will bring a unique shopping experience to downtown New Bedford. Holiday Shops 2007 is coordinated by the City of New Bedford Office of Tourism and Marketing, in collaboration with ArtWorks!, the New Bedford Whaling Museum and the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park.

"Holiday Shops is a safe, free family-oriented weekend that everyone will enjoy. The City is pleased to put forth another great New Bedford event and we invite residents and visitors to discover the new downtown businesses and enjoy the history found in our National Park," Mayor Scott W. Lang said. Artisans, crafters, restaurants, specialty shops and boutiques will come together to create a unique holiday shopping experience. Families can enjoy a ride on a horse drawn wagon, an antique fire engine or aboard a trolley through the National Park. Santa Claus will arrive at Custom House Square each day at 11AM by antique fire truck and will be available to hear children's Christmas wish lists at Centre Street Realty

Highlights at Holiday Shops 2007

- Holiday Shops 2007 begins on Saturday, December 1 at 11:00am with the arrival of Santa aboard an antique fire engine at Custom House Square at 11:00 A.M. Santa and Mrs. Claus will lead a children's parade to Santa's Workshop children's parade will then follow Santa and Mrs. Claus to Santa's Workshop located at Centre Street Realty on Water Street. Bring your camera and take a special photograph of your children with Santa.
- This year all children's craft activities will be located at Art Works!. Volunteers will be helping children and their parents with arts & crafts activities and face painting.

- Delicious food will be prepared and served by Freestone's City Grill under the tent at the Whaling Museum plaza.
- Free parking, courtesy of the City of New Bedford is available on both Saturday and Sunday at the Elm Street Garage. Free transportation from the garage to all Holiday Shops locations will be available rain, snow or shine by trolley.
- For more information about Holiday Shops, please call the Office of Tourism and Marketing at (508) 979-1745.

In addition to Holiday Shops 2007, holiday celebrations are planned throughout the city. The annual **Illumination of Clasky Common** is scheduled for Saturday, December 1st at 5PM. Join the countdown celebration to illuminate festive displays of dazzling lights throughout the common. Then, on Sunday December 2nd the City of New Bedford **Official Christmas Tree Lighting** will occur at 4:00PM in City Hall Square. The New Bedford High School Jazz Choir and Marching Band will perform a collection of traditional holiday music.

On Saturday, December 1st from 4PM-8PM, enjoy the New Bedford Preservation Society's annual **Holiday House Tour** by candlelight. See some of the most outstanding architecture in New Bedford in these beautiful homes on Sunday, December 2 from 1PM-5PM too. Tours begin at the Wamsutta Club and tickets can be purchased in advanced for \$18 at various locations including Elaine's T-shirts at the Black Whale, New York Shoe Repair, The Surrey Shoppe, Roseland Nursery, Periwinkles, Baker Books, Davol's General Store, Ultimate Touch Nail Salon, The Woodhouse Shop, and Marion General Store. Tickets are \$20 each the day of the tour. For more information call the New Bedford Preservation Society at (508) 997-7431.

The New Bedford Art Museum will host its annual fundraiser, **The Festival Of Trees** at the Wamsutta Club on Saturday, December 1st, from 6-9PM. View Christmas trees decorated for the holiday season, enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres, sparkling cocktails, a silent auction and fine entertainment. Tickets are \$80/per person and can be purchased through the Art Museum at (508) 961-3072.

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